

Future of KAUR

"You can go as far at KAUR as you want to. I went up there as a sophomore wanting to do some news because I thought it would be fun. I became news director and now I'm in line to be station manager."

Junior Jim Barkley, FM-89 program director, is optimistic about the coming changes at the Augustana College radio station and the expanding opportunities for students at the station. Barkley is preparing to assume the reins of KAUR from present Station Manager Dan Iseminger.

"KAUR is an excellent opportunity for students to get into radio — either for their own enjoyment or as a career interest," Barkley said.

"In the last two years, at least 10 students have been placed in professional radio stations around town from KAUR," he said. "But most do it for fun and because they like music."

There is one problem inherent in a student-run radio station — the number of students that have to be dealt with. As program director, Barkley is responsible for filling every three hour show.

"We have 60 people a week doing

shows — we have to work around their schedules and inevitably some don't show up.

"You get people mad at you trying to get them to fill shows," Barkley said. But he said that the experience in management and working with people has been the good part of the job.

Barkley is looking forward to becoming station manager. "We have had a good year under Dan Iseminger — continuing to progress with good air sound is my goal."

Major technical changes are in the works for KAUR. "By spring the station should be broadcasting off a new transmitter and MPR's tower. We'll be going from 100 to 500 watts which will give us better stereo sound, increase our coverage area and improve our reception," he said.

"The college has been great in getting us new equipment — they've been committed to getting us a new transmitter," Barkley said. Also, the station's studio equipment is practically new and their sports board is one of the best on the market.

But all the station's valuable equipment is housed in Old Main. "We definitely need to move — the building is not safe and it is not good reflection on the college.

"The windows are falling out and the walls are crumbling," he said. "My office has no heat.

"New studios would make us a complete station," Barkley said.

"We are still hoping to move next summer but it could be as late as next fall. We would be disappointed if we couldn't move soon — plans have been in the works for a long time," he said.

Studio problems aside, Barkley sees KAUR expanding as a training ground for radio and radio journalism experience.

"It's easy and fun to have your own three-hour radio show. You just have to apply. No experience is necessary. We give students the experience to go on.

"If we could involve the journalism classes, we have the potential to have the largest news staff in the state," Barkley said. -Bob Fitch

1) front: Bob Fitch, sports director; Alan Helgeson, production director; Jeff Paulson, music director. back: Gordon Bosse, director of christian music; Randy Hutchison, news director; Dan Iseminger, general manager; Jim Barkley, program director.

2) Jim "BIG MAN" Barkley behind the scenes at KAUR.

